

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *GEOCLEMMYS* FROM
ECUADOR. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC.

Mr. Cuming has lately sent to the Museum two shells of a species of Freshwater Tortoise, and a younger specimen, in spirits, of the same animal, obtained by Mr. Fraser at Esmeraldas, on the western coast of Ecuador.

GEOCLEMMYS ANNULATA.

Shell oblong, subquadrangular, black, slightly and irregularly varied with yellow; the vertebral plates square, almost as long as broad, with a compressed flat-topped anterior keel, highest on the fourth vertebral plate, which is narrower behind; margin sub-entire, with a triangular yellow spot on the under side of each plate; nuchal plate distinct; sternum flat, rounded on the sides, black, with a broad yellow band, forming a ring round the margin.

Hab. Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

The adult shell has much the external appearance of a Land Tortoise of the genus *Testudo*, but it has the divided caudal plate of the *Emydae*. The nuclei of the vertebral plates are posterior and submarginal; those of the costal plates are placed in the upper hinder angle; the horny shields of these plates are concentrically grooved. The sternum is flat, rather suddenly bent up and truncated in front, and slightly curved and with a deep triangular notch behind: the broad yellow ring on this part gives it a very distinct appearance.

The young specimen, with the animal preserved in spirits, is black like the adult, but the back is much lower and rather concave in the middle, with a very strong, yellow, rounded keel. The hinder margin is slightly, and the front lateral margin is strongly, turned up at the edge. The head is rather small and black, the crown, the temple, and the neck being varied with broad white streaks or spots. The limbs are black, with a few broad white streaks and some white spots. The front of the fore legs is covered with cross rows of large scales; the soles of the feet with larger scales; the rest of the legs is covered with small granular scales; the hinder edge of the fore feet with three or four acute shields; the outer edge of the hind feet, marking the rudimentary outer hind toe, is edged with larger shields. Toes 5-4, short, thick, conical, only very slightly webbed at the base, and covered above and on the sides with three series of rather large shields. Tail short, conical, with rings of small black scales.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *EMYS* LATELY LIVING IN
THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY. BY DR. J.
E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC.

The British Museum has lately received from the Zoological Society a specimen of an *Emys* which has recently died in the Gardens. It is believed to have been one of five specimens brought from Egypt by C. W. Domville, Esq., in 1852; but this is not certain. It is

quite distinct from any which have hitherto come under my observation.

EMYS FULIGINOSUS,

Depressed, flexible, black. Shields convex, rather irregular, with deep, irregular, subconcentric grooves of unequal depression. Under-side black, with white blotches on the front margin of the sternum and on the inner edge of the central marginal plates near the sternocostal suture, and a small irregular white blotch on the middle of the under side of the front marginal plates. Head rather depressed; crown covered with a continuous, smooth, rather horny skin. Jaws mottled with sinuous white lines or spots; sides of the neck with narrow white lines; the chin and throat mottled with broader white streaks, often interrupted or coalescing, or short and sinuous; the temple with a distinct round white spot, with two or three small white dots in front of it; the tympanum with a central white spot, and edged with a white streak in front. Legs and feet black; the front of the fore legs varied with white irregular streaks or spots, especially on the inner side, and with a white streak down the centre of the upper side of each toe. Toes distinctly webbed; claws rather elongate, curved, acute, black, with pale edges; the toes with a single central series of larger scales above. Fore legs with four large conical scales on the outer part of the upper side, and with a cross series of three square scales on the under side of the wrist. The hind legs and feet covered with equal, small triangular scales. Tail conical, black, with two transverse streaks before the vent.

Hab. North Africa?

DESCRIPTION OF HOMALOCRANIUM LATICEPS, A NEW SNAKE FROM CARTHAGENA. BY DR. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

A Snake presented by Capt. Garth to the British Museum proves to be a new species. It was procured at Carthagena.

HOMALOCRANIUM LATICEPS.

Diagnosis.—Scales in fifteen rows. Head broad, depressed as in *Elaps*. Seven upper labial shields, the third and fourth of which enter the orbit; two posterior oculars. Above black, with about twenty-three narrow brownish-yellow rings, the first forming a collar; belly brownish-yellow.

Description.—This Snake much resembles an *Elaps* in general habit; but there is no fang anteriorly, and the last maxillary tooth is longer than the others, and *appears* to be grooved. The rostral shield is rather low, triangular, and somewhat bent backwards on the upper surface of the head; the anterior frontals are much broader than long, and only one-fourth of the size of the posterior; the vertical is six-sided, not much longer than broad; occipitals moderate. The nostril is between two shields, the anterior of which is the largest; loreal none; one anteorbital. Seven upper labial shields, the second of which is in immediate contact with the posterior frontal;